



Attorney Docket No.: 0818.0014C

#9
A. Queen
6/25/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the PATENT application of

Jeffrey S. HAGGARD et al.

Serial No: 09/529,391

Filed: June 6, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: Guarriello, J.

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For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IN-LINE SPLITTING OF PLURAL
COMPONENT FIBERS AND FORMATION OF NONWOVEN FABRICS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following is a Response to the Restriction (Paper No. 7) mailed April 23, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 1-100 are pending in the subject application. The Examiner has indicated that restriction of the claims is required under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372, and has restricted the claims into the following groups: Group I, claims 91-100, drawn to plural component fibers, Group II, claims 78-90, drawn to a nonwoven web of fabric, Group III, claims 1-41, drawn to methods of making nonwoven fabrics, and Group IV, claims 42-77, drawn to apparatuses. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.499, Applicant elects Group III, claims 1-41, with traverse. However, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The subject application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 national stage application of International Application No. PCT/US98/21378. Accordingly, the Examiner must show that the groups of inventions as set forth above lack unity and do not relate to a single general inventive concept as set forth in Rule 13 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). In particular, PCT Rule 13.1